

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please replace the abstract with the following rewritten text:

-- ~~An object of the invention is~~ A method and a device to electrostatically discharge a printing material, to which a toner has been applied, in an appropriate manner. ~~In accordance with the present invention, a~~ The method is provided for electrically discharging certain areas of a toner-coated printing material, in particular for an electrophotographic printing machine, ~~is provided, in which case certain areas of the printing material are electrically discharged. Furthermore, a~~ The discharge device is provided for a printing machine, specifically for an electrophotographic printing machine, ~~is provided~~ for electrically discharging toner-coated printing material, ~~said~~ . The device ~~using~~ uses a control device for electrically discharging certain areas of the printing material.--